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REMARKS

New Claims 7-11 are pending in the application, with claims 8 and 10 amended and new claim 11 added herein.

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claim 7 is allowed and that claim 8 is allowable.

Initially, claims 8 and 10 are objected to as dependent from a cancelled base claim. These claims have been amended to depend from claims 7 and 9 respectively. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Next, the office action rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to be written "in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person in the art to which it pertains...to make and use the same."

Specifically, the office action states that claims 9 and 10 are rejected "since 'a means recitation does not appear in combination with another recited element of means.'" It is submitted that claim 9 recites numerous means including means for demultiplexing, means for inputting, means for outputting, means for multiplexing, means for finding, and means for detecting thus it is believe that this rejection is presented here in error as the cited section of the MPEP 21.64.08(a) references an instance where a claim presented only a single "means" limitation and no other elements of the claim. That is not the case in the instant claim 9.

To clarify this rejection, the Examiner was called on about February 14, 2007, to discuss this confusing rejection. The Examiner indicated that she couldn't explain it as it did nor originate with her, but rather had been requested by a subsequent reviewing examiner. To address the issue the Examiner indicated that if examples of the recited means, from the specification were provided in this response, she would likely withdraw the rejection.

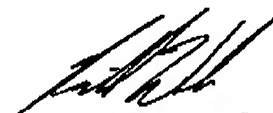
Accordingly, the following examples of the means recited in claim 9 are presented at the request of the Examiner. An example of means the means can be found in Fig. 2 where the means for demultiplexing is element 2, means for inputting are represented by the lines connecting element 2 and elements 3-1 to 3-9, means for outputting are the lines connecting elements 3-1 to 3-9 to element 4, means for multiplexing is element 4, means for finding is represented by element 6, and means for detecting is represented by element 5. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent claim 9 recites a plurality of means, examples of which can be found in the specification. Claim 10 recites further means. Accordingly withdrawal of the rejections under § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

Submitted herewith is a new claim 11, which is believed to be allowable for at least some of the same reasons as independent claim 7. Accordingly, allowance is respectfully requested.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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